

**TICKHILL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

**For the Year ending 31st December, 1925.**



**T. A. CALEY, M.D., M.R.C.S., Eng.,**

**Medical Officer of Health.**

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**BAWTRY :**

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# Tickhill Urban District Council.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

Year ending 31st December, 1925.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
TICKHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the circular 540, of December 18th, 1924, issued by the Ministry of Health, the Report for 1925 is a Survey Report, and is based as far as possible on the following principles:—

- (a) The measure of progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of the Public Health.
- (b) The extent and character of the changes made during that period in the Public Health Services of the area.
- (c) Any further action of importance in the organisation and development of Public Health Services contemplated by the Local Authority, or considered necessary by the Medical Officer of Health.

Your area being quite a small one any large improvement is necessarily slow in taking place, but there has been distinct advance made during the last five years.

### General Statistics.

Area (acres) of the Urban District	...	...	...	5579
Population, Census, 1921	...	...	...	2084
„ Estimated at the middle of 1925	...	...	...	2212
Rateable value	...	...	...	£9399
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£40
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	560

### Natural and Social Conditions.

The chief part of the area lies in a basin of the Pennine foot hills. The town itself is 30 ft. above sea level. Most of the houses are very old, and consequently ill-arranged and inconvenient. A beautiful church, dating from the Norman period, is the chief feature of importance, but there is also a moated Castle Mound with part of the walls still intact.

After years of somnolence the town is again becoming of some slight importance as a centre of business for a people occupied mostly in coal mining and agriculture.

Coal Pits surround, but there are none inside your area. Consequently, from a rateable point of view, little benefit has been derived from the revival of industrialism. Quite half the working classes are employed at the neighbouring coal mines, but agriculture still offers considerable employment, especially to women and girls.

There has been no unemployment, and the whole district has the atmosphere of prosperity. During the period under review the Firbeck Branch Railway has been under construction and has given work to a large number of men, most of whom have been imported into the district.

The amount of Poor Law relief must have been very small, and I know of no case of destitution.

The general health of the district has been good, no one disease being particularly prevalent.

Tuberculosis cases are provided for by the County Council, patients first attending a Dispensary established at Doncaster, and later, if necessary, passed on to a Sanatorium.

Arrangements have also been made by the County Council for the treatment of Maternity cases in a Nursing Home in Doncaster. Infectious cases are usually treated at Conisbro' Isolation Hospital, you having made arrangements with the management of that Hospital. Cases are removed in the hospital ambulance. There is no ambulance and no mortuary in the area, but there is no particular need for either.

There is no whole time officer attached to the Council. The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are both part-time officials, the latter also acting as part-time Surveyor for the Council.

There is a District Nurse in the area, provided by the Tickhill Nursing Association. She is Queen's trained and is the only qualified midwife in the district.

The Urban Council does not contribute to the maintenance of the nurse, but the County Council pays a small sum every year for special services rendered by the nurse. These comprise ante-natal visiting, the supervision of infants and school children, &c.

Maternity and Child Welfare centres have not yet been established in the area. The time has now come when much good could be done by such services.

## Sanitary Circumstances.

**WATER.**—A Water Board has been formed in partnership with the Doncaster Rural District Council, and it is hoped that very shortly an abundant supply of good water will be available all over the area. At the present time the people are dependent on shallow wells and rain. The wells provide extremely hard water, and much of it is not fit for domestic use because of pollution.

**DRAINAGE.**—The town is partly sewered, but much of the work is old and needs replacing. Parts of the town are still without a sewer, and nuisances are frequent in consequence. The sewage passes into two depositing tanks, and the effluent flows on to the land. Up to the present this system has been satisfactory, but extension will be necessary in the near future. No doubt when this work is undertaken a more modern method of treating the sewage will be adopted.

**SCAVENGING.**—This has been done by a contractor with a varying degree of satisfaction. The antiquity of many of the houses makes the work difficult, and more co-operation on the part of the people is needed to help your officers to carry on the work efficiently.

**SCHOOLS.**—There is one public elementary school, with an infant department in a separate building some distance away. There is also a small private school. All these have been visited from time to time and found satisfactory. There is no water supply at either of the public elementary schools, and the closets are anything but what they should be. These matters will be remedied with the advent of a laid-on water supply.

**HOUSING.**—There is a general shortage of houses for the working classes, and there is considerable overcrowding in

many of the houses. Much of the property is so old as to be almost past repair. Many of the yards are badly paved and the surface drainage inefficient.

Towards the end of the year there was a marked stimulus in local building. Only four new houses were completed during 1925, but several others were started.

The scheme, promoted by your Council, for the building of twelve houses for the working classes offers hope of better conditions in cottage life. The Council hopes to sell the houses as they are completed, and if this is done they are prepared to continue building so long as there is a demand. The great difficulty seems to build a house that the average working man can afford to buy or rent. The rents of many cottages have become inflated during the last few years. Places that at one time let for one shilling a week can now be readily let at ten to twelve shillings; rates, &c., to be paid by the tenant. At the present price of building it seems that no new cottage can be let at much below the latter figure. It is certainly greater than the average working man can pay. In making these remarks I do not wish to infer that your district differs from others in this respect. I know of worse conditions of cottage life outside your area than are present within it.

A feature of the year has been the appearance of "caravan" homes in the area. So far they have been nicely kept and have caused no worry from a sanitary point of view.

### **Supervision of Food.**

**MILK.**—There has been a sufficient supply of good milk. The quality has been fairly uniform and it has not been necessary to take any action. There are 20 cow-sheds in the district, all of which are now registered. Many of them fall far below an ordinary standard of perfection.

Most of the milk produced is consumed in the district, but a very considerable quantity is sent into the neighbouring towns.

**MEAT.**—A part-time officer has been appointed to inspect meat. Up to the present no action has been necessary.

There are three slaughter houses, all registered. They have been inspected from time to time and various improvements suggested. Upon the whole the conditions found were satisfactory.

The number of registered slaughter houses has not varied during the last five years.

### Infectious Diseases.—Prevalence of.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Cases sent to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox ... ..	None	None	None
Scarlet Fever ... ..	11	10	1
Diphtheria ... ..	None	None	None
Enteric Fever .. ...	None	None	None
Pneumonia ... ..	5	None	3
Erysipelas ... ..	1	None	None

Scarlet Fever was the only infectious disease that caused us any anxiety. It was imported into the town from a neighbouring colliery village. The number of cases reported was the largest for five years, as seen in the subjoined table. This was no doubt due to the increasing population and to the present day habit of more frequent journeying by bus, &c.

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
None	2	5	3	11

**TUBERCULOSIS.**—Only one case of this disease was reported during the year. This was in a male aged 26. He received Sanatorium treatment.

**VENEREAL DISEASES.**—Very few cases have come under our notice. Treatment is usually given at Clinics, which are held at the Hospitals in Doncaster and Sheffield.

**PUERPERAL FEVER.**—There was no case reported during 1925.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**—No case reported.

### Vital Statistics.

**BIRTHS** registered. Legitimate—24 males; 30 females.

Illegitimate— 2 males; 2 females.

Total 58.

Birth rate per 1000 living persons per annum ... 27.5

Birth rate for England and Wales ... 18.2

**DEATHS** registered. 20 males; 12 females. Total 32.

Death rate per 1000 living persons per annum ... 15.6

Death rate for England and Wales ... 12.2

## Table showing Birth and Death Rates for last Five Years.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Birth Rate ...	35·02	25·5	28·39	25·35	27·5
Death Rate ...	17·27	17·4	13·6	11·9	15·6
Infantile Death Rate ... ..	95·88	152·4	66·2	11·2	34·2

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.** — The death rate of infants under one year of life was 34·2. That of England and Wales was 75·0. The rate is calculated per 1000 births per annum.

There was one death resulting from Measles.

There was one death resulting from Scarlet Fever.

There was one death following Child Birth.

### Principal Causes of Death.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis of the Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebral Hoemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Death from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## Bye-Laws and Regulations.

The following have been adopted by your Council —

New Streets and Buildings.

Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements.

Prevention of Nuisances.

Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses, and  
Offensive Trades.

All these were adopted in 1893.

## Adoptive Acts.

Part III of Public Acts, Amendment Act, 1890.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Both adopted in 1893.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to be,

Your obedient servant,

T. A. CALEY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*





